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that some change in the method of working the mine was necessary. The Tientsin does not, indeed, attempt to disguise the reasons for the change contemplated. "There being," he says, "a growing demand for coal, in consequence of the rapid increase in the number of Chinese steamers, and it being quite impossible to procure from abroad all the supplies that are needed, it has become a matter of the greatest necessity for the purposes of naval defence that a knowledge of the art of mining should be acquired." With this view the services of Mr. TRENCH were secured to report upon the various coal-producing hills in the neighbourhood of Kelung. That gentleman and the officers deputed to accompany him preoccupied in favour of Lao-liao-ling and other places a short distance from Kelung, and recommended the purchase of the necessary machinery and tools, the formation of a tramway, and the introduction of wheeled waggons, to be moved by pulleys, for the carrying off and shipment of the coal. These suggestions have all received the Imperial sanction, together with a supplementary one that the Chinese miners shall be instructed by foreign workmen in the best and most approved method of extracting the coal, in order that its proper working may be facilitated to the utmost possible extent. The scheme is undertaken and will be paid for by the Chinese Government, and in order that every encouragement may be given to the development of the coal trade all the mining duties have been abolished. The abolition of these duties has already, it is stated, effected a reduction in the price of coal at Kelung, and it is undeniably calculated to give a great impetus to the trade of that port. It is to be hoped, from the improvements recently sanctioned and adopted, that the Chinese Government is at last ready to take the immense importance of the development of the vast mineral resources of the Empire, and that the changes in the system of working coal just made will be followed by the opening up of many other rich deposits, and the application of modern machinery. Meantime the progress of the improvements to be introduced at the North-Foremost mine will be watched with great interest by all foreigners. Since have been selected in the neighbourhood of Kelung for the construction of dwellings for the English miners, who are expected to arrive in the course of the present year, under engagements effected by Mr. TRENCH, and before many months have passed they will probably be actively at work, instructing the natives in the modern process of extracting "black diamonds" from the hills. In a few years we may expect to see Kelung become a thriving coal port, and for a time, probably, the Newcastle of China.

The report to which the *Shanghai Courier* gives currency, to the effect that three more ports, in addition to Kiangchow, are shortly to be thrown open to foreign trade, is interesting, if true. The ports mentioned are Ichang, situated in Western Hupei, Wenchow, a seaport in the province of Chekiang, about midway between Foochow and Ningpo, and Wuhu, a few miles up the river Yangtze, beyond Ningpo. All these cities are centres of a good deal of trade, and it is stated that they are going to be opened to trade through the instrumentality of Mr. ROBERT HART, the Inspector-General of Customs. Mr. HART is no doubt as well qualified as anyone to judge of the prospects of trade, and if he has really counselled the step it may be taken for granted that there is a probability of a good deal of business being done. It is, however, doubtful how far the commercial interests of British and foreign merchants will be promoted by the multiplication of open ports. It would be quite another thing if the Chinese Government could be induced to follow the example of European countries and throw the whole country open to trade. The step may be taken, however, as an indication that the Peking Government is becoming more amenable to reason in some matters, and more inclined to take advantage of the benefits which flow through an extended commerce with foreign nations. If the rumour has any foundation, it will not be long before it is confirmed officially.

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LATEST TELEGRAMS.

REUTERS TELEGRAMS.

SUPPLIED TO THE "DAILY PRESS."

THE YUNNAN ANTI-DEGRADATION OF

LI SIAI.

SHANGHAI, 11th February.

An Imperial Edict appears in the *Peking Gazette* degrading Li Siai and ordering him to Yunnan for trial.

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